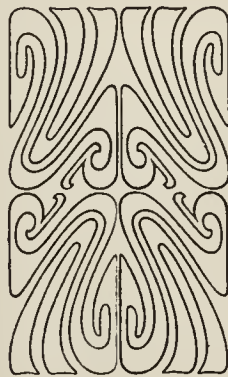


THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
LITTLEBOROUGH.

---

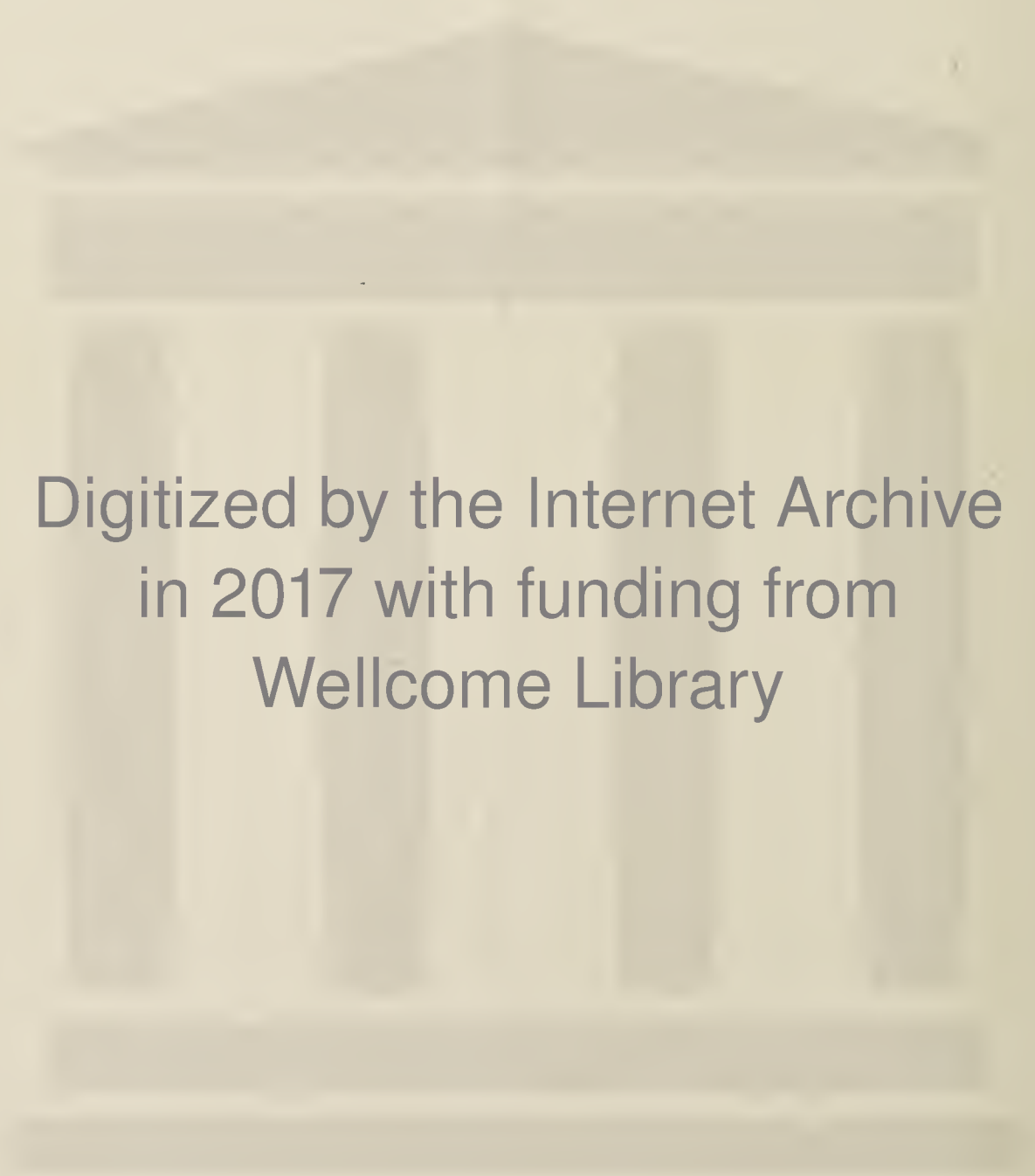
ANNUAL REPORTS  
*of the* MEDICAL OFFICER  
*of* HEALTH, & *the* HEALTH  
VISITOR, *for the* YEAR 1919.



DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
DEPUTY M.O.H.

---

Jackson Bros., 70, Church Street, Littleborough.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29735944>

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health,

*For the year ended December 31st, 1919.*

---

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your District during the year 1919.

**Population**

The estimated civil population (as supplied by the County Council) of the District is 11,676. The population taken at the census (1911) was 11,697.

**Area**

The District extends over an area of 7,856 acres, and is situated at the foot of the Pennine Range, 500 feet above sea level, on the borders of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The climate is somewhat damp but bracing.

The chief industries—the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, iron turning and founding.

Density per acre is 1·48.

**Vital Statistics**

The number of deaths registered in the District in 1919 was 183, which is equivalent to a death rate of 16·3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Population (supplied by C.C.) for the calculation of death rate being 11,209.

The number of births was 175, which is equivalent to a birth rate of 14·9. Population (supplied by C.C.) for the calculation of birth rate being 11,676.

For 1918 the death rate was 20·2 and the birth rate 12·7, and the averages for the past ten years were: death rate 15·3, birth rate 16·5. From these figures it will be seen that the death rate is 1·0 above the average and the birth rate 1·6 below the average.

During the year 175 births were notified. 184 visits were paid by the Health Visitor to houses where births had recently occurred; 1,141 following-up visits; 96 pre-natal visits.

Of those infants visited by the Health Visitor, 139 were breast fed, 23 bottle fed, and 18 were fed both on breast and bottle.

### Infant Deaths

There have been 15 deaths under one year, which is equivalent to a death rate of 85 per 1,000 net births, against 13 deaths and a rate of 93 in 1918.

In cases where deaths were investigated by the Health Visitor, the greater majority were amongst bottle fed babies.

The average of the past 10 years was 105.

Valuable advice and supervision has been given by the Health Visitor under the Notification of Births Act, 1907. Premature birth, &c. has been responsible for 8 deaths this year, as compared with 5 in 1918. Valuable assistance continues to be given by the District and C.A. Nurses.

### Zymotic, Respiratory, and Tuberculosis Death Rate

	1918	1919
Zymotic Death Rate ... ..	0·95	0·26
Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3·24	3·30
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	0·66	0·62
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0·57	0·35

### Infectious Diseases

68 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the past year against 503 in 1918.

	1918	1919
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	1
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	Nil	9
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	2
Erysipelas ... ..	3	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	Nil
Measles and German Measles ...	490	51
Puerperal Fever .. ...	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis ... ..	3	Nil

### Scarlet Fever

One Case.

### **Diphtheria and Membranous Croup**

Of the 9 cases of this disease :

	I	occurred in	February
	I	„	„ March
	I	„	„ May
	I	„	„ June
	I	„	„ July
	I	„	„ October
	I	„	„ November
	2	„	„ December

3 cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital.      I case died.

### **Enteric Fever**

Of the 2 cases of this disease both occurred in October.      I case was treated in the Isolation Hospital.      I case died.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

No cases.

### **Measles and German Measles**

Of the 51 cases :

	3	occurred in	April
26	„	„	May
8	„	„	June
5	„	„	July
4	„	„	September
3	„	„	November
2	„	„	December

### **Puerperal Fever**

No cases.

### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis**

No cases.

### **Whooping Cough**

There were a very few cases.

### **Chicken Pox.**

A few cases in November and December.

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding unnotifiable diseases to the Returns of Sickness in Schools, supplied to me by the School Attendance Officer.



### **Influenza**

This disease occurred in epidemic form in March and the beginning of April. 13 fatal cases were notified.

### **Smallpox**

No cases.

### **Diarrhœa**

Only a few cases came under notice. The printed instructions which are issued at the commencement of the summer have been of great value.

### **Isolation Hospital**

The two large wards are reserved for Scarlet Fever, and the two small ones for Diphtheria and Enteric, but not both at the same time.

Arrangements have been made with the Rochdale Corporation to treat cases of Infectious Diseases (excepting Smallpox) at the Marland Fever Hospital, when the Isolation Hospital at Hollingworth is full, or the Wards are not available for their treatment.

In case of an outbreak of Smallpox in the District, arrangements have been made for the removal of all cases to the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board's Hospital.

### **Tuberculosis**

There were 11 deaths from Tuberculosis, 7 of which were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 to other Tuberculous Diseases, against 7 and 6 respectively in 1918. There were 28 notifications, 20 of which were new cases, and 8 duplicate notifications, which were chiefly comprised of notifications of admission and discharge of patients in Sanatoria. Of the new cases (20) 16 were Pulmonary and 4 other Tuberculous Diseases.

By arrangement with the Registrar, deaths from Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are notified on registration so as to facilitate the disinfection of the houses where deaths have occurred.

In case of removals, the rooms &c., are thoroughly disinfected.

Of the cases suffering from Tuberculosis, where occupation was stated: 2 were discharged soldiers, 1 asbestos operative, 1 bobbin carrier, 1 calico printer, 1 shop assistant, 1 scholar, 1 gas meter inspector, 1 labourer, and 1 bleacher.

The sputum was examined in 6 cases, all giving a positive result.

## Housing Acts

119 Houses have been inspected in the Durn, Gate House, and Ealees parts of the District :

Through Houses ... ..	34
Houses not through, but with window opening at back	38
Houses not through, with no back door or window...	5
Back-to-back Houses ... ..	42

## Rooms

2 houses had ... ..	6 or more rooms
9 " ... ..	5 rooms
26 " ... ..	4 "
71 " ... ..	3 "
7 " ... ..	2 "
4 " ... ..	1 room

119 Houses were occupied by 426 persons, an average of 3.58 per house. There was no overcrowding.

The drainage of the various properties is connected with the sewer

All the houses had a satisfactory water supply, 24 being supplied with Corporation water, and 95 by private supplies.

List of defects noted :

Defective drain inlets ... ..	3
" rainwater pipes ... ..	9
" waste pipes ... ..	7
Rainwater pipes connected direct ... ..	17
Defective eaves-troughing ... ..	4
Damp walls ... ..	27
Defective windows or to be made to open...	30
" roofs ... ..	12
" floors ... ..	8
" ashplaces ... ..	5
" closets ... ..	6
Houses with insufficient closet accommodation	33
Defective doors ... ..	4

Defects remedied under the Housing Acts :

Main drains provided or reconstructed ...	1
Branch drains " " ...	10
Drains opened, cleansed, and repaired ...	4
Rainwater pipes repaired ... ..	16
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain...	8
Drain inlets repaired ... ..	4
Eaves-troughing repaired ... ..	5
Roofs repaired ... ..	4
Floors repaired ... ..	2
Waste pipes provided ... ..	5
Waste pipes repaired ... ..	4
Waste pipes trapped ... ..	1
Gullies provided ... ..	13
Windows repaired or made to open ...	18
Houses provided with Corporation water ...	21
Slopstones provided ... ..	5
Ceilings repaired ... ..	3
Ashplaces repaired ... ..	1

## Defects remedied excluding those done under the Housing Acts :

Main drains provided or reconstructed	...	3
Branch drains	„ „	33
New connections to sewer	... ..	2
Drains opened, cleansed, and repaired	...	32
Drain inlets repaired	... ..	4
Rainwater pipes repaired	... ..	24
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains		6
Ventilating shafts to drains provided	...	4
Man holes provided	... ..	2
Eaves-troughing repaired	... ..	14
Roofs repaired	... ..	6
Gullies provided	... ..	18
Ashplaces repaired	... ..	30
Closets repaired...	... ..	24
Waste pipes repaired	... ..	4
Windows repaired or made to open	...	10
Houses cleansed	... ..	3
Walls repaired	... ..	1
Walls cleansed	... ..	1
Ceilings cleansed	... ..	1
Coal places repaired	... ..	4
Slopstones provided	... ..	1
House chimney repaired	... ..	1
House boiler repaired	... ..	1
House oven repaired	... ..	1
Closets cleansed	... ..	2
Accumulation of refuse removed	... ..	1
House provided with Corporation water	...	1
Water closet repaired	... ..	1
Waste water closets repaired...	... ..	4
Water closets provided	... ..	8
Pail closets converted to W.Cs.	... ..	3
Waste water closet converted to W.C.	... ..	1
Pail closets abolished	... ..	5
Ashplaces provided	... ..	2
Ashbins provided	... ..	1

**Inhabited Houses**

The number of inhabited houses in the District at the last census was 2,972, and there were 115 unoccupied. Since then 144 houses have been built. No houses have been built during the past year.

All houses in which infectious diseases have occurred, and all houses in which Phthisis cases have died, or from which they have been removed, have been disinfected by spraying and fumigating with Formaldehyde. 12 Houses have been disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and 17 houses after death or removal of Phthisical cases, &c.

61 Notices have been sent to Schoolmasters and Sunday School Secretaries informing them of children suffering from infectious diseases and prohibiting them from attending School.

2 Library books have been destroyed.

Early in the year Pamphlets were distributed throughout the District, stating precautions to be taken against the spread of Influenza.

8 cases have been removed to the Isolation Hospital : 5 Diphtheria, 2 Enteric Fever, and 1 Scarlet Fever.



### **Water Supply**

The District generally is supplied with water by the Rochdale Corporation, and the supply has been satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. A number of houses in the District are supplied with water from private supplies. 21 Houses situated at Calderbrook have been supplied with Corporation water during the year.

### **Factories**

There are 73 factories on the register. 3 Complaints have been received from the Factory Inspector in respect to defects in sanitary accommodation at 3 factories. The cause of complaint in 2 cases has been remedied, and the remaining case is in hand. During the year water closets have been erected at one factory in lieu of the existing pail closets, and at 2 other factories the erection of water closets is now in progress.

### **Workshops**

There are 46 on the register. On being visited they have been found satisfactory. One complaint has been received from the Factory Inspector as to the cleansing and limewashing of a workshop. This has been remedied.

### **Retail Bakehouses**

There are 14 on the register. A reasonable standard of cleanliness has been maintained without resort to the service of any notice. There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

### **Common Lodging-Houses**

There are 2 in the District, both of which have been regularly visited.

### **Slaughter Houses**

There are 7 Registered Slaughter Houses on the Register. All have been regularly inspected, and are in as satisfactory condition as can be expected under the existing regulations. Extensive alterations have been carried out at one of the slaughter houses.

### **Butchers' Shops, &c.**

The butchers' shops, &c., have all been regularly inspected. During the year 1,262 lbs of beef, 30 lbs of sausages, and 20 lbs of suet have been condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

### **Maintenance of Live Stock Order, 1916**

This came into force in April, 1916, and has for its object the increase in the live stock of the Country.

## **Offensive Trades**

There are 7 in number: 3 fell-mongers, 2 tripe boilers, 1 gut scraper, and 1 glue maker. All have been inspected and found satisfactory.

## **Cowsheds and Farm Buildings**

There are 93 in the District, and 76 cowkeepers. A large majority of them are in good repair. Extensive repairs have been carried out at one farm after notice had been served on the owner.

In accordance with the resolution of the Council in October, 1915, of permitting the slaughter of pigs on unlicensed premises, a number of persons have availed themselves of the privilege.

Samples of milk for analysis under the Food and Drugs Acts. are taken by the Police Authorities.

## **Milk Supply**

The milk supply has been sufficient for the population during the year.

## **Milk (Mothers and Children's) Order, 1918**

Milk has been supplied under this Order in several necessitous cases.

## **Canal Boats**

36 Boats have been inspected, and with one exception were found to be in conformity with the Acts and Regulations. In the remaining case, the cause of complaint has been remedied.

## **Scavenging**

Refuse is removed in covered carts and emptied on tips in the District. There is no destructor, the night-soil being disposed of to farmers in the District, where the land is suitable.

## **Closet and Ashplace Accommodation**

There are 1616 pail closets, 419 water closets, and 395 waste water closets. There are 1,783 ashtubs housed in ashplaces with doors and coverings, and 79 ashbins.

During the year :

- 8 water closets have been erected
- 1 waste water closet converted to a water closet
- 3 pail closets converted to water closets
- 5 pail closets abolished
- 2 additional ashtubs provided
- 1 ashbin provided.

### **Sewage and Drainage**

The sewage is treated at the Sewage Works by precipitation and filtration. All the samples taken have been classed as satisfactory.

### **Smoke**

28 Observations, each of one hour's duration, have been made; one of which exceeded the time limit fixed by the Council (six minutes in the hour). Four letters have been sent to firms in respect to the emission of black smoke.

### **Dwelling-house Chimneys**

This matter has been delegated to the police.

### **Petroleum Licenses**

3 Licenses have been renewed during the year.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given me by Mr. Wild, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. George F. Wild.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

August 10, 1920.

DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
DEPUTY M.O.H.

## Vital Statistics for 1919

Deaths						Males	Females
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	71	112
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	13	11
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	26	48
Deaths of Infants under the age of 1 year						6	9
Total Births: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	75	82
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	10	8
Population for Birth Rate...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,676
Population for Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,209
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.3
Epidemic Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.26
Phthisis Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.62
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	...	...	85

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LADY HEALTH VISITOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Fifth Annual Report upon the work done—the Notification of Births Act.

The rate of Infantile Mortality is 85 per 1,000 births.

During 1919 I have paid :

Visits to houses where births had recently occurred	184
“Following up” visits ... ..	1141
Visits in connection with Ophthalmia notifications	—
Pre-natal visits ... ..	96

Total Visits 1421

Of the infants visited there are :

Naturally fed babies ... ..	139
Artificially fed ... ..	23
Mixed feeding ... ..	18

The great majority of deaths of infants under one year are those of bottle fed babies.

Many of these deaths can undoubtedly be traced to insufficient food, neglect, and mismanagement. It is rarely that children are wilfully neglected, but they often are through inexperience, carelessness, and ignorance. The most frequent mistakes in this district are those of irregular feeding, over feeding, and improper feeding—the giving of patent foods and “pobs” (boiled bread), before the age at which the digestive organs are capable of dealing with starch.

The old-fashioned tube feeding bottle is still in use, but is gradually being ousted out by the more cleanly feeder. Practically all the babies have the so-called “comforters,” against the use of which there is much to be said.

In many cases, the babies are now provided with cosy wool vests in place of the cotton garment formerly worn.

The majority of the older children are well and comfortably clothed with flannel undergarments.

The work this year has been chiefly infant visiting. Any insanitary conditions brought to my notice are reported to and dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Wild and Mr. Williamson for their kind courtesy given to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JESSIE MACRITCHIE,

February, 1920.

Qualified Nurse & Lond. Obstet. Soc., C.M.B.



